

"Committed to the Future of Rural Communities"



Mr. Thomas C. Dorr USDA Under Secretary, Rural Development and

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
US Representative, 2nd District of West Virginia
Invite You to Attend a Free Broadband Workshop

Monday, October 2, 2006 - 9:00 am Check In Marriott Hotel, Charleston, West Virginia

Join Us and Understand the Application Processes for:

- Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees
- Community Connect Broadband Grants
- Distance Learning/Telemedicine Loans and Grants

Understand program eligibility and other important requirements!

Determine programs that are right for you and your community!

Consult with Program Experts regarding your project!

Improve your chances for successful loan and grant applications!

Welcome and Introductions, Robert Steptoe, West Virginia State Director, USDA Rural Development Speakers (10:00 am until Noon)

- Thomas C. Dorr, USDA Under Secretary, Rural Development Welcoming Remarks
- Jacqueline M. Ponti, Assistant Administrator, USDA Telecommunications Program
 Keynote Address: USDA Telecommunications Programs and Vision for the Future
- Ron Mellon, General Field Representative, USDA Rural Development Telecom Program
 The USDA Telecom and Broadband Program in West Virginia Today
- Karen Weaver, City Manager, City of Philippi, West Virginia
 A Community Connect Broadband Grant Success Story
- Pam Bennett, Senior Loan Specialist, USDA Broadband Division
 Introduction to the USDA Telecom and Broadband Programs
- Shelley Moore Capito, US Representative, 2nd District West Virginia
 Closing Remarks

Afternoon Breakout Sessions (1:00 pm until 3:30 pm)

- The Broadband Loan Application Process for Service Providers
 Pam Bennett, Broadband Division Senior Loan Specialist
- Distance Learning/Telemedicine Grants, Loans and Loan/Grant Combinations Ron Mellon, General Field Representative West Virginia
- The Community Connect Broadband Grant Program
 Alyssa Clemsen, USDA Broadband Grant Specialist

Register as soon as possible at: Sarah.Ash@wv.usda.gov or call 304.284.4862 or 1.800.295.8228; FAX to 304.284.4893 (304.284.4836 TTY/TDD). Space is limited. Morning beverages and light refreshments provided. Lunch is on your own. USDA Rural Development staff will be available on site for individual guidance. Appointments (recommended) can be made by contacting GFR Ron Mellon at ronald.mellon@wdc.usda.gov.

West Virginia's Community Connect Foundation is sponsoring its "First Annual Broadband Summit" beginning at 6:00 pm, October 2nd at the Charleston Marriott (after this event), continuing on October 3rd. Get conference information at (304) 965-9010 or www.commconnect.org.

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